1509/1380.

THE

ORATORS.

As it is now performing at the

NEW THEATRE

IN THE

HAY-MARKET.

WRITTEN

By SAMUEL FOOTE, Esq.

Where more is meant than meets the ear.

IL PENSEROSO.

LONDON,

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MDCCLXVII.

		1767.
LECTURER,	Mr. *Foote*,	Mr. *Foote*.
PUPILS.	Mr. *Weſton*,	Mr. *Weſton*.
	Mr. *M'George*,	Mr. *Pynn*.
	Mr. *Quin*,	Mr. *Quick*.
	Mr. *Banniſter*,	Mr. *Banniſter*.
	Mr. *Williams*,	Mr. *Davis*.
	Mr. *Young*,	Mr. *Loveman*.
	Mr. *Booth*,	Mr. *Caſtle*.
	Mr. *Palmer*,	Mr. *Palmer*.
	Mr. *Kickill*,	Mr. *Strange*.
	Mr. *Somers*,	Mr. *Smith*.
	Mr. *Pearce*,	Mr. *Pearce*.
		Mr. *Keen*.
		Mr. *Gardiner*.
		Mr. *Newton*.
		Mr. *Shuter*.

THE ORATORS.

ACT I. SCENE I.

Enter WILL TIREHACK *and* HARRY SCAMPER, *booted, with Whips in their Hands, into a Side-Box.*

SCAMPER.

P'SHAW! zounds! prithee, Will, let us go; what ſignifies our ſtaying here?

TIREHACK.

Nay, but tarry a little; beſides, you know we promis'd to give Poll Bayliſs and Bett Skinner the meeting.

SCAMPER.

No matter, we ſhall be ſure to find them at three at the Shakeſpear.

TIREHACK.

But as we are here, Harry, let us know a little what it's about?

SCAMPER.

About. Why lectures, you fool? Have not you read the bills, and we have plenty of them at Oxford, you know?

TIREHACK.

Well, but for all that, there may be fun.

SCAMPER.

Why then, ſtay and enjoy it yourſelf; and I'll ſtep to the Bull and Gate, and call upon Jerry Lack-Latin, and my horſe. We ſhall ſee you at three. [*Riſing.*

TIREHACK.

Nay, but, prithee, ſtay.

SCAMPER.

Rot me if I do. [*Going out of the Box.*

TIREHACK.

Halloo, Harry; Harry—

SCAMPER.

Well, what's the matter now? [*Returning.*

TIREHACK.

Here's Poll Bayliſs juſt come into the gallery.

SCAMPER.

No——

TIREHACK.

She is, by ——

SCAM-

BRITISH MUSEUM 30 66 APR

SCAMPER. [*Looking.*

Yes, faith! it is ſhe, ſure enough.—How goes it, Poll?

TIREHACK.

Well, now, we ſhall have you, I hope?

SCAMPER.

Ay, if I thought we ſhould get any fun.

TIREHACK.

I'll make an enquiry. Halloo! ſnuffers, ſnuffers.

CANDLE SNUFFER.

Your pleaſure, Sir?

TIREHACK.

What is all this buſineſs about here?

SNUFFER.

Can't ſay, Sir.

SCAMPER.

Well, but you could if you would, let us into the ſecret.

SNUFFER.

Not I, upon my honour!

TIREHACK.

Your honour, you ſon of a whore! D'ye hear, bid your maſter come hither, we want to aſk him a queſtion?

SNUFFER.

I will— [*Exit.*

TIREHACK.

Scamper, will you aſk him, or ſhall I?

SCAMPER.

Let me alone to him—

Enter FOOTE.

TIREHACK.

O! here he is—

FOOTE.

Your commands with me, gentlemen?

SCAMPER.

Why, you muſt know Will and I here, are upon a ſcheme from Oxford; and becauſe caſh begins to run low—How much have you, Will?

TIREHACK.

Three and twenty ſhillings, beſides the crown I paid at the door.

SCAMPER.

And I eighteen; now, as this will laſt us but to-night, we are willing to huſband our time; let us ſee, Will, how are we engag'd?

TIREHACK.

Why at three, with Bett and Poll, there, at the Shakeſpear; after that to the Coronation; for you know we have ſeen it but nine times—

SCAMPER.

And then back to the Shakeſpear again; where we ſup, and take horſe at the door.

TIREHACK.

So there's no time to be loſt, you ſee; we deſire, therefore, to know what ſort of a thing this affair here of yours is? What, is it damn'd funny and comical?

FOOTE.

FOOTE.

Have you not ſeen the bills?

SCAMPER.

What, about the lectures? ay, but that's all ſlang, I ſuppoſe; no, no. No tricks upon travellers; no, we know better—What, are there any more of you; or do you do it all yourſelf?

FOOTE.

If I was in want of comedians, you, gentlemen, are kind enough to lend me a lift; but, upon my word, my intentions, as the bill will inform you, are ſerious—

TIREHACK.

Are they? then I'll have my money again. What, do you think we come to London to learn any thing?—Come, Will. [*Going.*

FOOTE.

Hold, Gentlemen, I would detain you, if poſſible. What is it you expect?

SCAMPER.

To be jolly, and laugh, to be ſure—

FOOTE.

At what?

TIREHACK.

At what—damme, I don't know—at you, and your frolicks and fancies—

FOOTE.

If that is all you deſire; why, perhaps we ſhan't diſappoint you—

SCAM-

SCAMPER.

Shan't you—why, that is an honeſt fellow—come, begin—

FOOTE.

But you'll be ſo kind as not to interrupt me?

SCAMPER.

Never fear—

FOOTE.

Ladies and gentlemen—

[Suds *from the oppoſite box calls to* Foote, *and ſtops him ſhort.*

SUDS.

Stop a minute; may I be permitted to ſpeak?

FOOTE.

Doubtleſs, Sir—

SUDS.

Why the affair is this. My wife Alice—for you muſt know my name is Ephraim Suds, I am a ſoap-boiler in the city,—took it into her head, and nothing would ſerve her turn, but that I muſt be a common-council man this year; for ſays Alice, *ſays ſhe*, It is the *onlieſt* way to riſe in the world.

FOOTE.

A juſt obſervation—you ſucceeded?

SUDS.

Oh! there was no danger of that—yes, yes, I got it all hollow; but now to come to the marrow

marrow of the buſineſs. Well, Alice, ſays I, now I am choſen, what's next to be done? "Why now, ſays Alice, *ſays ſhe*, thee muſt "learn to make ſpeeches; why doſt not ſee "what purferment neighbour Grogram has "got; why man, 'tis all brought about by his "*ſpeechifying*. I tell thee what, Ephraim, if "thee can'ſt but once learn to lay down the "law, there's no knowing to what thee may'ſt "riſe—"

FOOTE.

Your lady had reaſon.

SUDS.

Why, I thought ſo too; and, as good luck would have it, who ſhould come into the city, in the very nick of time, but maſter profeſſor along with his lectures—Adod, away, in a hurry, Alice and I danced to Pewterers Hall.

FOOTE.

You improv'd, I hope?

SUDS.

O Lud! It is unknown what knowledge we got; we can read—oh! we never ſtop to ſpell a word now—and then he told us ſuch things about verbs, and nouns, and adverbs, that never entered our heads before, and emphaſis, and accent; heav'n bleſs us, I did not think there had been ſuch things in the world.

FOOTE.

And have you *ſpeechify'd* yet?

SUDS.

SUDS.

Soft; ſoft and fair; we muſt walk before we can run—I think I have laid a pretty foundation. The Manſion-houſe was not built in a day, Maſter Foote. But to go on with my tale, my dame one day looking over the papers, came running to me; Now Ephraim, ſays ſhe, thy buſineſs is done; rare news, lad; here is a man at the other end of the town, that will make thee a *ſpeecher* at once, and out ſhe pull'd your propoſals. Ah Alice, ſays I, thee be'ſt but a fool, why I know that man, he is all upon his fun; he lecture—why, 'tis all but a bam—Well, 'tis but ſeeing, ſays ſhe, ſo, *wolens nolens*, ſhe would have me come hither; now if ſo be you be ſerious, I ſhall think my money wiſely beſtow'd; but if it be only your comical works, I can tell you, you ſhall ſee me no more.

FOOTE.

Sir, I ſhould be extremely ſorry to loſe you; if I knew but what would content you?

SUDS.

Why, I want to be made an orator *on*; and to ſpeak ſpeeches, as I tell you, at our meetings, about politicks, and peace, and addreſſes, and the new bridge, and all *them* kind of things.

FOOTE.

Why, with your happy talents I ſhould think much might be done.

SUDS.

SUDS.

I am proud to hear you ſay ſo. Indeed I am. I did *ſpeechify* once at a veſtry concerning new lettering the church buckets, and came off cutely enough; and, to ſay the truth, that was the thing that provok'd me to go to Pewterers-Hall. [*Sits down again.*

FOOTE.

Well, Sir, I flatter myſelf, that in proportion to the difference of abilities in your two inſtructors, you will here make a tolerable progreſs. But now, Sir, with your favour, we will proceed to explain the nature of our deſign, and I hope, in the proceſs, you, gentlemen, will find entertainment, and you, Sir, information.

Mr. FOOTE *then proceeds in his lecture.*

My plan, gentlemen, is to be conſider'd as a ſuperſtructure on that admirable foundation laid by the modern profeſſor of Engliſh, both our labours tending to the ſame general end; the perfectioning of our countrymen in a moſt eſſential article, the right uſe of their native language.

But what he has happily begun, I have the vanity to think I have as happily finiſh'd; he has, it is true, introduc'd you into the body of the church, but I conduct you into the choir of the cathedral: Or, to explain myſelf by a more familiar alluſion, though he is the Poitier who teaches

teaches you the ſtep and the grounds; yet I am the Gallini who gives you the air, and the grace of the minuet.

His aim is propriety alone; mine propriety with elegance.

For though reading, ſo ſhamefully neglected, not only by thoſe of tender years, but the adult; not only by children, but even by grown men and women; not only in our private ſeminaries, but in our publick univerſities, is allowed to be a neceſſary ingredient towards the formation of an orator; yet, a great many other rules, a great many other precepts, are requiſite to obtain his perfection.

Nay, perhaps we might, to ſupport an argument without the danger of a defeat, at leaſt if we may truſt obſervation, that of all the profeſſions that require a verbal intercourſe with the public, there is no one to whom reading is of ſo little utility as that of oratory.

I need not inſiſt upon this head, as I believe every gentleman's experience will furniſh him with inſtances of men eminent in oratory, who, from an early vivacity, have neglected, or the indulgence of their parents have been emancipated from the attention and application neceſſary, it is true, to acquire this rugged art, but at the ſame time ſo ill-ſuited to their tender years, and ſo oppoſite to thoſe innocent amuſements in which children are known univerſally to delight. *Thwart not a child, for you ſpoil his temper*,—is, or at leaſt ought

ought to be, an Engliſh proverb, as it is an univerſal practice.

I would not here be underſtood to depreciate the uſefulneſs of reading, or to detract from the exceeding merit of the profeſſor's plan; no, my meaning is only juſt to drop a hint that I may occaſionally uſe him as a walking-ſtick; a kind of an *elegantly clouded Mocoa*, or an *airy Anamaboo*: yet, that it is by no means my intention to depend upon him as *a ſupport*, or lean upon him as *a crutch*; in a word, he will be rather ornamental than neceſſary to me.

But uſeleſs as his plan is to me, I ſincerely wiſh it ſucceſs for the ſake of the public; and if my influence was equal to my inclination, I would have a law enacted, upon the plan of the militia bill, that annually, or biennially, draughts ſhould be made from every pariſh of two, three, or more, as in that act of able-bodied, ſo in this of intelligent perſons, who, at the expence of the ſeveral counties, ſhould be ſent to the capital, and there compelled to go thro' as many courſes of the profeſſor's lectures as he ſhall deem ſufficient: thus, by thoſe periodical rural detachments, the whole nation will, in a few years, be completely ſerved, and a ſtock of learning laid in, that will laſt till time ſhall be no more.

Would our rulers but adopt this ſcheme! how ſuperior would England be even to the moſt illuſtrious periods of Greece and Rome! what

what an unrival'd happineſs for us, what an eternal fund of fame for them! ye Solons, ye Lycurgus's, ye Numa's, hide your diminiſh'd heads; ſee what a revolution two laws in a few years have produc'd; ſee a whole people, ſunk in more than Gothic ignorance, accuſtom'd to no other iron implements than the pacific plough-ſhare, or the harmleſs ſpade, ſtart out at once profound ſcholars and veteran ſoldiers: If at this happy period, a Frenchman, thinking any thing out of his own country worthy his attention, ſhould condeſcend to pay this kingdom a viſit; methinks, I anticipate the account he will give of us at his return, (like his countryman of old, who, at the taking of Rome, burſting into the capitol, and there finding the ſenate fix'd and immoveable in their ſeats, declar'd them an aſſembly of kings,) ſo will he at once pronounce the whole Britiſh nation to be an army of generals, and one congregation of doctors. Happy country! where the *Arma & Toga* are ſo fortunately blended, as to prevent all contention for the pre-eminence.

I know but one objection that can be made to this plan, and that merely a temporary one; that the culture of our lands will ſuſtain an infinite injury, if ſuch a number of peaſants were to deparochiate, there being already ſcarce hands ſufficient, from the recruits conſtantly made for Germany, &c. &c. &c. to carry on the common buſineſs of huſbandry.

But

But what are riches, periſhable commodities, glittering, tranſitory, fallacious goods, when compared to the ſubſtantial, incorruptible endowments of the mind: this truth is, indeed, happily inculcated by an old Engliſh adage;

"When lands and goods are gone and ſpent,
"Then learning is moſt excellent."

This ſenſible and poetical diſtich, I would recommend to Mr. Profeſſor, as a motto for his intended treatiſe; but I ſuppoſe he is already well provided with an apt *Latin*, if not a *Greek* one, to either of which I muſt yield the preference.

But to wave this ethical argument; I think I can eaſily foil the force of this objection, by a natural and obvious *Succedaneum*. Suppoſe a clauſe was to be added to the bill for the importation of tallow, raw hides, and live cattle from Ireland, that, during this literary emigration, a ſufficient number of inhabitants of that country may be tranſported hither to ſupply the vacancy: but here it muſt be obſerv'd, that for this purpoſe an act of parliament is indiſpenſably neceſſary; for tho' it would be difficult, if not impoſſible for us, in our preſent condition, to get in even our harveſts, without the aid of hands annually exported for that purpoſe from Ireland; yet this is at beſt but an illicit trade, and the men themſelves are to be conſidered under the article of ſmuggled goods: a very heavy penalty being laid

by ſtatute on all maſters of veſſels, who ſhall venture to import any of the above cited commodity into this realm, without ſpecial licence; to this purpoſe I recollect a caſe in point, the fifth of William and Mary, Ban. Reg. The King contra Oflaarty. Vide V. Rep. vol. iii. chap. 9. page 4.

But if this ſhould be thought by the people in power too great an indulgence to the Iriſh, as we have never been remarkably profuſe in our favours to our loyal and affectionate ſiſter; I ſee no other method of redreſſing the imaginary evil, than by exempting from this ſervice all the males till a general peace, and accepting, in their room, a ſuitable number of diſcreet middle aged females; and theſe, when they have been properly perfected in the myſteries of our language, may be return'd to their ſeveral pariſhes, and there form little infantine communities of literati, which will be a ſtock for the ſucceeding generation; and, indeed, upon conſideration, I don't know whether this won't prove the beſt method for the introduction and univerſal propagation of the plan.

For the Engliſh common people, naturally ſullen and obſtinate, and religiouſly attach'd to their old cuſtoms, might be ſhock'd and ſcandaliz'd to ſee, at one bold ſtroke, the feſcues and faſces, which have been, from time immemorial, conſign'd to one, or more matron in every village, raviſh'd at once from their hands,

hands, and deliver'd over to the adminiſtration of the oppoſite ſex.

But to return to my own ſubject, from which my zeal for Mr. Profeſſor's ſucceſs has tempted me to make rather too long a digreſſion.

When I ventur'd to affirm that the profeſſion of an Orator might exiſt independently of an accurate knowledge of the arrangement, and different combinations of the four and twenty letters, ſo far as *(in the words of the Profeſſor)* they relate to their being the arbitrary marks of meaning upon paper; yet, I would not be underſtood to aſſert this generally, as to every ſpecies of oratory, but to confine myſelf to thoſe particular branches only, where the orator's own mind ſuggeſts the matter that his own mouth diſcharges: For inſtance, now, as when affairs of ſtate are weigh'd at a common-council, religious points militated at the Robin Hood, the arts and ſciences handled in the Strand, or politicks debated near Weſtminſter-abbey; here the arguments and words given are ſuppos'd to ariſe from the immediate impulſe of the giver; but where they are concurrent agents, as in the oratory peculiar to the pulpit and the ſtage, where one individual furniſhes the matter, and another adminiſters the manner, the caſe is widely different.

In the firſt inſtance, a tolerable proficiency in reading is indiſpenſably requiſite, as ſcarce any memory but the late Mr. Heydegger's

could retain, to any degree of certainty, the various parts of the Liturgy, the Old, and New Teſtament, briefs, faculties, excommunications, &c &c. &c. and a lapſe on thoſe ſolemn occaſions might be attended with very aukward circumſtances: nor would I here be ſuppos'd to inſinuate, that the pieces of oratory delivered from the pulpit are not the compoſition of the deliverer; no—This is ſo far from being generally the caſe, that I have often heard complaints made againſt particular agents, that they have forc'd upon their congregations their own crude, and inſipid productions, when, at the ſame time, their native language would furniſh them with ſo extenſive, and noble a collection of admirable materials. But here the auditor, unleſs he be well read in theology, may be led into a miſtake; for there are ſome men, who, by a particular happineſs in their manner, have the addreſs to make the works of other men ſo abſolutely their own, that there is no diſtinguiſhing the difference; at this the poet hints in his *male dum recitas*, &c. For theſe various reaſons, I think a warm application to the art of reading cannot be too ſtrongly recommended to the profeſſors of this kind of oratory.

With regard to the profeſſors of the ſtage, tho' reading is undoubtedly uſeful, yet, as the performer is to repeat, and not to read, the deficiency may be ſupply'd by the introduction of a third agent, viz. a perſon to read to him till the

the words are rooted in his memory. This expedient, tho' tedious, I have known frequently practis'd with good ſucceſs: little blunders will now and then unavoidably ariſe, either from the miſapprehenſion of the ſecond agent, or the ignorance, or waggery of the third; but theſe ſlips are generally unobſerved, or, thro' inattention or indulgence, overlook'd by an audience. But to return to the conſideration of my own plan, from which no temptation ſhall, for the future, ſeduce me to digreſs.

We will firſt, then, conſider the utility of Oratory.

Secondly, the diſtinct and various kinds, or ſpecies of that ſcience, as they are practis'd at this day in this kingdom.

Thirdly, we will demonſtrate, that every branch of Engliſh oratory is peculiarly our own, owes its riſe, progreſs, and perfection to this country, and was not only unknown to the ancients, but is entirely repugnant to all thoſe principles they have endeavour'd to eſtabliſh.

Fourthly, that any rhetorical ſyſtem now exiſting, inſtead of a croſs in the hands, with letters to direct you on your road, will prove only but a Will in the Wiſp, to confound, perplex, and bewilder you.

Fifthly, from hence will reſult a neceſſity, for the immediate eſtabliſhment of an academy, for the promulgation and inculcation of modern oratory.

To which academy, the author of theſe propoſals does hope, ſixthly, that he ſhall be appointed perpetual profeſſor.

Perhaps it may not be impertinent here to obſerve, that the author has induſtriouſly avoided, and will, in the courſe of this treatiſe, avoid all poetical alluſion, all grandeur of expreſſion, all ſplendor of diction, in ſhort, renounce every rhetorical prop, as knowing that, on didactic ſubjects, order, ſimplicity, and perſpicuity are the means to gain his end, which is not to gratify the imagination, but to improve and poliſh the underſtanding of my countrymen.

Firſt, then, we are to demonſtrate the utility of oratory: and, this, we flatter ourſelves will, in a great meaſure, be evident from the conſideration of its univerſality, and the diſtinctions it procures, both lucrative and honourable, to any man eminent in the art.

There is, by the conſtitution of this kingdom, an aſſembly of many individuals, who, as the ſeventh ſon of a ſeventh ſon is born a phyſician, are orators by hereditary right; that is, by birth they are enabled to give their opinions and ſentiments on all ſubjects, where the intereſt of their country is concern'd: To this we are to add another aſſembly, conſiſting of 558 individuals, where, tho' the ſame privilege is enjoy'd as in the firſt inſtance, yet this advantage is not poſſeſs'd in virtue of any inherent natural right, but is obtain'd in con-

conſequence of an annual, triennial, or ſeptennial deputation from the whole body of the people; if then we add to this liſt the number of all thoſe candidates who are ambitious of this honour, with the infinite variety of changes that a revolution of twenty years will produce, we cannot eſtimate thoſe funds of national orators in *eſſe*, *poſſe*, and *velle*, to a ſmaller quantity than 20,000; and this, I believe, by the diſciples of Demoivre, will be thought a very moderate computation.

The two orders of the long robe next demand our attention; and as the pre-eminence is unqueſtionably due to the prieſthood, let us conſider what number of perſons is neceſſary to ſupply that ſervice? England is divided into nine thouſand nine hundred and thirteen pariſhes: now, if we ſuppoſe two paſtors for every pariſh, this learned body will be found to conſiſt of nineteen thouſand eight hundred and twenty-ſix individuals; but as the moſt ſacred characters are no more exempted from that fatal ſtroke that puts a temporary period to our exiſtence, than the prophane, it is neceſſary that a proviſion ſhould be made of fit and able perſons; ſo that at all events there be no lack of labourers in this plentiful vineyard: nor has the policy of this nation been ſo blinded as not to guard againſt this poſſible contingency, by erecting ſchools, ſeminaries, and univerſities, in which a convenient quantity of our youth are properly trained, in order to fill

up chaſms which may be occaſionally made by the inſatiable ſcythe of Death. If then we eſtimate this corps de reſerve at the half only of the ſtanding force, we ſhall find the army entire amount to 29,739.

I foreſee that an objection will be made to this calculation, viz. That two paſtors to every pariſh is a moſt exorbitant and improbable charge; for that many pariſhes, from impropriations, appropriations, and other accidents, inſtead of two are ſcarce able to ſupport one paſtor; and that this complaint is almoſt general throughout the whole principality of Wales, where many individuals of this reſpectable order, to the great damage of their dignity, are oblig'd to have recourſe to very unclerical profeſſions for the ſupport of themſelves and families.

This objection we will allow its full force; but then if it be conſider'd that in our original eſtimate we omitted all deans, canons, prebends, heads and fellows of colleges, chaplains to ſhips, regiments, and private families, together with the whole body of diſſenting miniſters of all denominations, field-preachers, and pariſh-clerks, I believe we ſhall be thought rather to have diminiſhed than exaggerated the real quantity.

As I have not been able to get admittance to the archives of the ſeveral inns of court in this metropolis, I am afraid we ſhall not be able to determine, with the ſame degree of certainty,

tainty, the exact number of thoſe who have devoted their lives and labours to the explanation and due execution of our municipal laws: I am, therefore, oblig'd to depend on circumſtantial evidence, which, in ſome caſes, is admitted, even in our courts, to have equal force with proof poſitive.

And here the reaſon of the law (as the law is the perfection of reaſon) is extremely clear. To illuſtrate this by an inſtance:

A ſwears a robbery againſt *B*; *A* may lye, or at leaſt be miſtaken; but if the goods ſtolen from *A*, and previouſly deſcribed by him, are found, with their mark, in the poſſeſſion of *B*, *B* not being able to account for ſuch poſſeſſion, that circumſtance ſhall be deem'd of at leaſt equal weight againſt *B*, as if *A* was to ſwear poſitively to the perſonal identity of *B*. This being the practice of the courts, we ſhall proceed, with all poſſible expedition (which, indeed, is not the practice of the courts) to produce onr proofs circumſtantial. As in the former inſtance we have grounded our calculation on the number of pariſhes, we ſhall in this derive our computation from the number of houſes in the kingdom.

To any man tolerably acquainted with the country of England, it is unneceſſary to obſerve, that not only in every town, but almoſt in every hamlet through which he travels, his eyes are conſtantly caught by the appearance of a ſmart houſe, prefac'd with white rails, and prologu'd

prologu'd by a red door, with a braſs knocker; when you deſire to be acquainted with the name and quality of the owner of this manſion, you are always told that it belongs to lawyer ſuch a one: now, if a hamlet containing thirty houſes, with perhaps an environ of an equal number, where labour and the fruits of the earth are the only ſources of wealth, can ſupport one attorney in this rural magnificence; what an infinite number of lawyers can a commercial capital ſuſtain? But becauſe I would rather retrench than exceed, I will only quarter one attorney upon fifty houſes. The number of houſes in the reign of George the Firſt (ſince which time the quantity is conſiderably encreas'd,) was computed at 1,175,951. The number of attorneys then will be 23,518, and if we reckon one barriſter to twenty attorneys, the ſum total is 24,693.

I know it will be here objected, that but one ſmall part of this numerous body can be benefited by my plan, the privilege of ſpeaking publickly being permitted to the ſuperior order, the barriſters alone: but this criticiſm is confin'd to the obſervation of what paſſes merely in Weſtminſter-hall, without conſidering that, at every quarter and petty ſeſſion at all county-courts, courts-leet, courts-baron, &c. &c. &c. full power of pleading is permitted to every practitioner of the law.

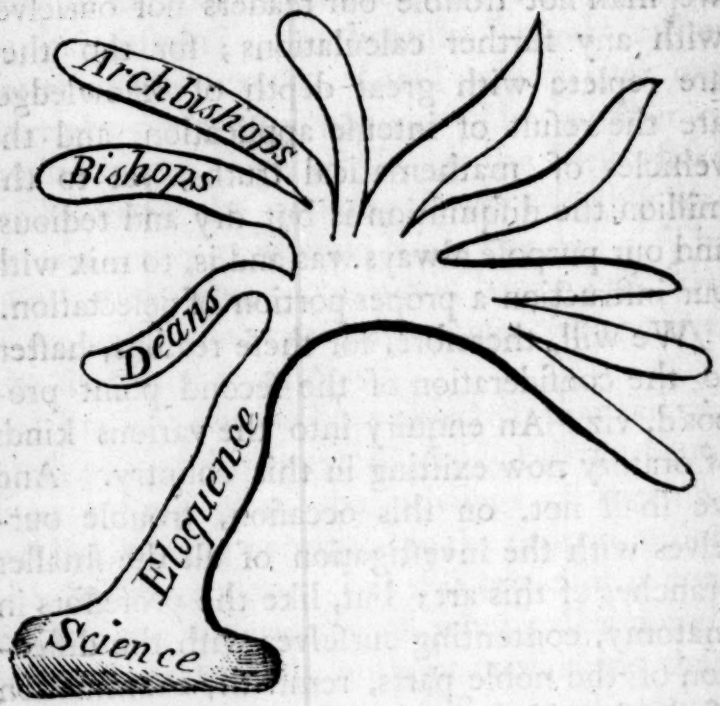
As the number of thoſe who incorporate themſelves to promote, not only with their caſh

caſh but their counſel, the progreſs of the arts and ſciences, is unlimited, it will be impoſſible for any fix'd period to aſcertain their quantity: nor can we, with any certainty, as the Court-Regiſter has been ſilent to the members of common-council, determine the amount of the city orators; beſides, as what has been already offered is more than ſufficient to prove the utility of our ſcheme from its univerſality, we ſhall not trouble our readers nor ourſelves with any further calculations; for tho' they are replete with great depth of knowledge, are the reſult of intenſe application, and the vehicles of mathematical truths, yet to the million the diſquiſition is but dry and tedious, and our purpoſe always was and is, to mix with our inſtruction a proper portion of delectation.

We will, therefore, for theſe reaſons, haſten to the conſideration of the ſecond point propos'd, viz. An enquiry into the various kinds of oratory now exiſting in this country. And we ſhall not, on this occaſion, trouble ourſelves with the inveſtigation of all the ſmaller branches of this art; but, like the profeſſors in anatomy, contenting ourſelves with the diſſection of the noble parts, remit the examination of the ignoble ones to the care of ſubaltern artiſts. Leaving, then, to the minute philoſophers of the age all the orators of veſtries, clubs, and coffee-houſes, *Paulo majora canamus*, and for the better illuſtration of this head, permit me, reader, to be a little fanci-

ful.

ful. We will ſuppoſe oratory to be one large tree, of which tree ſcience is the *radix*; eloquence the trunk; from which trunk ſprout four diſtinct ramifications; from which ramifications depends a fruit peculiar to each. But to make this clearer, we will preſent thee with the tree itſelf, not enigmatically hierogliphied, but plainly and palpably pourtray'd.



But here, reader, let me not arrogate to myſelf the merit of this happy explication; I own the hint was firſt given me with my Grammar.

The

The ingenious, profound Lilly, after he has led his pupils through the various, and almoſt impervious provinces of nouns, pronouns, verbs, participles, and adverbs, conducts them to the foot of that arduous and ſtupendous mountain *Qui Mihi*: here, dreading leſt his youthful ardour might be damp'd with the ſteep aſcent, he reanimates his ſlacken'd nerves with the myſtic picture of an apple tree, the acceſs to whoſe boughs, tho' tedious and difficult, will yet be amply rewarded by leave to revel uncontroul'd through the whole region of pepins. May the luſcious fruit ſprouting from the apex of each of my ramifications prove an equal ſpur to every beardleſs orator!

I don't know whether the mentioning another order of orators, as they are not at preſent exiſting in this kingdom, may not be deemed an impropriety. But as I am a ſincere lover of my country, I can't help recommending an immediate importation of ſome of thoſe uſeful and able artiſts. Sir William Temple, in his Eſſay on Poetry, has recorded their virtues; and as the race was not extinguiſhed in his time, it is to be hoped that it ſtill remains.

In Ireland, ſays Sir William, the great men of their ſcepts, amongſt many officers of their family, had not only a phyſician, a huntſman, a ſmith, and ſuch like, but a poet and tale-teller.

The firſt recorded and ſung the actions of their anceſtors, and entertained the company

at

importation, by alledging, that we have of our own growth, an ample proviſion of rockers, and refer us for proof to our ſeveral churches and chapels, during the hours of eleven and two on a Sunday, where the ſleep compelling power will be experimentally demonſtrated to exiſt in its full force amongſt us; but not to derogate from the abilities of my countrymen, ſurely the ſhortneſs of the time, the cauſe of the nap rarely continuing above fifteen or ſixteen minutes, will not admit of a proper experiment: beſides, how can one orator ſupply a whole pariſh, unleſs, indeed, our churches were to be converted into dormitories, which I can't think will happen, as this would be attended with inconveniencies too obvious to need a recital.

Abſtracted from this laſt order, the Engliſh orators are to be divided into four diſtinct claſſes, the pulpit, the ſenate, the bar, and the ſtage; with the firſt of theſe branches, the pulpit, I ſhan't interfere, and, indeed, ſo few people now of conſequence and conſideration frequent the churches, that the art is ſcarce worth cultivation. The bar—

SCAMPER.

Pſhaw! there's enough of this dull proſing; come, give us a little of ſomething that's funny; you talk'd about pupils. Could not we ſee them?

FOOTE.

FOOTE.

Rather too precipitate, Sir; but however, in ſome meaſure to ſatisfy you, and demonſtrate the ſucceſs of our ſcheme; give me leave to introduce to you a moſt extraordinary inſtance, in the perſon of a young Highlander. It is not altogether a year ſince this aſtoniſhing ſubject ſpoke nothing but Erſe. Encourag'd by the prodigies of my brother profeſſor's ſkill, whoſe fame, like the Chevalier Taylor's, pierces the remoteſt regions, his relations were tempted to ſend this young genius to Edinburgh; where he went thro' a regular courſe of the profeſſor's lectures, to finiſh his ſtudies; he has been about ſix weeks under my care, and, conſidering the time, I think you will be amaz'd at his progreſs. Donald—

Enter DONALD.

What's yer wull, Sir?

FOOTE.

Will you give theſe ladies and gentlemen a proof of your ſkill?

DONALD.

Ah, ye wad ha' a ſpecimen of my oratorical art.

FOOTE.

If you pleaſe.

DONALD.

In gude troth on ye ſal; wol ye gi' me a topick?

FOOTE.

O! chuſe for yourſelf.

DONALD.

It's aw one to Donald.

FOOTE.

What think you of a ſhort panegyrick on the ſcience we are treating of?

DONALD.

On oratory; wi' aw my heart.

FOOTE.

Mind your action; let that accompany your words—

DONALD.

Dunna heed, man—The topic I preſum to haundle, is the miraculous gifts of an orator, wha, by the bare power of his words, he leads men, women, and bairns as he liſts—

SCAMPER.

And who?

DONALD. [*Tartly.*

Men, women, and bairns.

SCAMPER.

Bairns; who are they?

FOOTE.

Oh! children —— his meaning is obvious enough.

DONALD.

DONALD.

Ay, ay; men, women, and bairns where-ever he liſts; and firſt for the antiquity of the art—Ken ye, my lads, wha was the firſt orator? — Mayhap, ye think it was Tully the Latiniſt; ye are wide o'the mark; or Demoſthenes the Greek? In gude troth, ye're as far off as before—Wha was it, then? It was e'en that arch-chiel, the Deevil himſel—

SCAMPER. [*Haſtily.*

The devil it was; how do you prove that?

DONALD.

Guds zounds, mon, ye brake the thrid of my harang; an ye'll but ha'd yer tongue, I'ſe prove it as plain as a pike-ſtaff.

TIREHACK.

Be quiet, Will, and let him go on.

DONALD.

I ſay it was that arch-chiel, the Deevil himſel. Ye ken weel, my lads, how Adam and Eve were planted in Eden, wi plenty o' bannocks and cail, and aw that they wiſhed, but were prohibited the eating of pepins—

SCAMPER.

Apples—

DONALD.

Weel, weel, and are na pepins and apples aw the ſame thing?

FOOTE.

Nay, pray, Gentlemen, hear him out. Go on with your pepins.—

DONALD.

Prohibited the eating of pepins; upon which what does me the orator Satan, but he whiſpers a ſaft ſpeech in her lug; egad our grannum fell to in an inſtant, and eat a pepin without ſtaying to pare it — *(Addreſſes himſelf to the Oxonians.)* Ken ye lads, wha was the firſt orator, now?

TIREHACK, *to Scamper.*

What ſay you to that?

SCAMPER.

By my ſoul, the fellow's right—

DONALD.

Ay, but ye wan'na ha' patience—ye wan'na ha' patience, lads—

TIREHACK.

Hold your jaw, and go on—

DONALD.

Now, we come to the difinition of an orator; and it is from the Latin words *oro*, *orare*, to intreat, or perſwad; and how, by the means o' elocution, or argument, which argument conſiſts o' letters, which letters join'd mak ſyllables, which ſyllables compounded mak words,

which

which words combin'd mak ſentences, or periods, or which aw together mak an orator, ſo the firſt gift of an orator is words—

SCAMPER.

Here, Donald, you are out.

DONALD.

How ſo?

SCAMPER.

Words, the firſt gift of an orator! No, Donald, no, at ſchool I learn'd better than that: Do'ſt not remember, Will, what is the firſt perfection of an orator? action. The ſecond, action. The third, action.

TIREHACK.

Right, right, Harry, as right as my nail; there, Donald, I think he has given you a doſe—

DONALD.

An ye ſtay me, i' the midſt o' my argument—

SCAMPER.

Why don't you ſtick to truth?

DONALD.

I tell ye, I can *logically*.—

TIREHACK.

Damn your logick—

DONALD.

Mighty weel—Maiſter Foote, how ca' ye this uſage?

FOOTE.

Oh, never mind them—proceed.

DONALD.

In gude troth, I'ſe nat ſay ane ward mare.

FOOTE.

Finiſh, finiſh, Donald.—

DONALD.

Ah! they have jumbled aw my ideas together; but an they wall enter into a fair argumentation, I'ſe convince 'em that Donald Macgregor is mare than a match.—

SCAMPER.

You be—

DONALD.

Very weel—

FOOTE.

Nay, but my dear Donald—

DONALD.

Hands aff, Maiſter Foote—I ha' finiſh'd my tale, the De'el a word mare ſal ye get out o' Donald—yer ſervant, Sir. (*Exit.*

FOOTE.

You ſee, gentlemen, what your impatience has loſt us.

SCAMPER.

Rot him, let him go; but is this fellow one of your *pupils?* why, what a damnable twang he has got, with his men, women, and bairns.—

FOOTE.

FOOTE.

His pronunciation is, I own, a little irregular; but then conſider he is but merely a novice; why, even in his preſent condition, he makes no bad figure for his five minutes at the *Robin-Hood*; and in a month or two, we ſhan't be aſham'd to ſtart him in a more *reſpectable place*.

But now, gentlemen, we are to deſcend to the peculiar eſſential qualities of each diſtinct ſpecies of oratory; and firſt for the bar—but as no didactic rules can ſo well convey, or words make a proper impreſſion, we will have recourſe to more palpable means, and endeavour, by a lively imitation, to demonſtrate the extent of our art. We muſt, for this end, employ the aid of our pupils; but as ſome preparation is neceſſary, we hope you will indulge us in a ſhort interruption.

End of the FIRST ACT.

ACT II.

SCENE, *A Hall of Juſtice.*

Enter FOOTE.

THE firſt ſpecies of Oratory we are to demonſtrate our ſkill in, is that of the bar; and, in order to give our lecture an air of reality, you are to ſuppoſe this a court of juſtice, furniſh'd with proper miniſters to diſcharge the neceſſary functions. But, to ſupply theſe gentlemen with buſineſs, we muſt likewiſe inſtitute an imaginary cauſe; and, that the whole may be ideal, let it be the proſecution of an imaginary being; I mean the phantom of Cock-lane, a phænomenon that has much puzzled the brains, and terrify'd the minds of many of our fellow-ſubjects.

You are to conſider, ladies and gentlemen, that the language of the bar is a ſpecies of oratory diſtinct from every other. It has been obſerv'd, that the ornaments of this profeſſion have not ſhone with equal luſtre in an aſſembly near their own hall; the reaſon aſſign'd, though a pleaſant, is not the true *one*. It has been hinted, that theſe gentlemen were in want of their briefs; but was that the diſeaſe, the remedy would be eaſy enough: they need only have recourſe to the *artifice* ſucceſsfully practis'd

practis'd by ſome of their collegues; inſtead of having their briefs in their hands, to hide them at the bottom of their hats.

[*Calls to his pupils, who enter dreſs'd as a juſtice, a clerk, a ſerjeant at law, and a counſellor.*]

You will remember, Gentlemen, your proper pauſes, repetitions, hums, ha's, and interjections: now ſeat yourſelves, and you the counſel remember to be mighty dull, and you the juſtice to fall aſleep. I muſt prepare to appear in this cauſe as a witneſs. [*Exit.*

JUSTICE.

Clerk, read the indictment.

CLERK *Reads.*

Middleſex, to wit.

Fanny Phantom, you are indicted, That on, or before the firſt day of January, 1762, you, the ſaid Fanny, did, in a certain houſe, in a certain ſtreet, call'd Cock-lane, in the county of Middleſex, maliciouſly, treacherouſly, wickedly, and wilfully, by certain thumpings, knockings, ſcratchings, and flutterings againſt doors, walls, wainſcots, bedſteds, and bedpoſts, diſturb, annoy, aſſault, and terrify divers innocent, inoffenſive, harmleſs, quiet, ſimple people, reſiding in, at, near, or about the ſaid Cock-lane, and elſewhere, in the ſaid county of Middleſex, to the great prejudice of ſaid people in ſaid county. How ſay you, guilty, or—

COUN-

COUNSELLOR *ſtops the Clerk ſhort.*

May it pleaſe your worſhip—hem—I am council in this cauſe for the ghoſt—hem—and before I can permit her to plead, I have an objection to make, that is—hem—I ſhall object to her pleading at all.—Hem—It is the ſtanding law of this country—hem—and has—hem—always been ſo allow'd, deem'd, and practis'd, that—hem—all criminals ſhould be try'd *per pares*, by their equals—hem—that is—hem—by a jury of equal rank with themſelves. Now, if this be the caſe, as the caſe it is; I—hem—I ſhould be glad to know, how my client can be try'd in this here manner. And firſt, who is my client? She is in the indictment call'd a phantom, a ghoſt; What is a ghoſt? a ſpirit. What is a ſpirit? a ſpirit is a thing that exiſts independently of, and is ſuperior to fleſh and blood. And can any man go for to think, that I can adviſe my client to ſubmit to be try'd by people of an inferior rank to herſelf? certainly no—I therefore, humbly move to quaſh this indictment, unleſs a jury of ghoſts be firſt had, and obtain'd; unleſs a jury of ghoſts be firſt had and obtain'd. [*Sits down.*

SERJEANT.

I am, in this cauſe, Council againſt Fanny Phantom the ghoſt;—eh,—and notwithſtanding the rule laid down by Mr. Proſequi, be—eh—right in the main, yet here it can't avail

avail his client a whit. We allow—eh—we do allow, pleaſe your worſhip, that Fanny *quoad* Phantom,—eh—had originally a right to a jury of ghoſts; but—eh—if ſhe did, by any act of her own, forfeit this right, her plea cannot be admitted. Now, we can prove, pleaſe your worſhip, prove by a cloud of witneſſes, that ſaid Fanny did, as ſpecified in the indictment, ſcratch, knock, and flutter;—eh—which ſaid ſcratchings, knockings, and flutterings—eh—being operations, merely peculiar to fleſh, blood, and body—eh—we do humbly apprehend—eh—that by condeſcending to execute the aforeſaid operations, ſhe has wav'd her privilege as a ghoſt, and may be try'd in the ordinary form, according to the ſtatute ſo made and provided in the reign of, &c. &c. &c.

Your worſhip's opinion.

TIREHACK.

Smoke the juſtice, he is as faſt as a church.

SCAMPER.

I fancy he has touch'd the tankard too much this morning; he'll know a good deal of what they have been ſaying.

JUSTICE,

[*Is wak'd by the Clerk, who tells him they have pleaded.*

Why the objection—oh—brought by Mr. Proſequi, is *(whiſpers the clerk)* doubtleſs proviſionally a valid objection; but then, if the culprit

culprit has, by an act of her own, defeated her privilege, as aſſerted in Mr. Serjeant's replication; we conceive ſhe may be legally try'd—oh,—beſides—oh,—beſides, I, I, I can't well ſee how we could impannel a jury of ghoſts; or—oh—how twelve ſpirits, who have no body at all, can be ſaid to take a corporal oath, as requir'd by law—unleſs, indeed, as in caſe of the peerage, the priſoner may be try'd on their honour.

COUNSELLOR.

Your worſhip's diſtinction is juſt; knockings, ſcratchings, &c. as aſſerted by Mr. Serjeant.—

SERJEANT.

Aſſerted—Sir, do you doubt my inſtructions?

COUNSELLOR.

No interruptions, if you pleaſe, Mr. Serjeant; I ſay as aſſerted, but can aſſertions be admitted as proofs; certainly no—

SERJEANT.

Our evidence is ready—

COUNSELLOR.

To that we object, to that we object, as it will anticipate the merits—your worſhip—

SERJEANT.

Your worſhip—

JUSTICE.

JUSTICE.

Why, as you impeach the ghoſt's privilege, you muſt produce proofs of her ſcratchings.

SERJEANT.

Call Shadrach Bodkin.

CLERK.

Shadrach Bodkin, come into court.

SERJEANT. [*Enter* Bodkin.

Pray, Mr. Bodkin, where do you live?

BODKIN.

I ſojourn in Lukener's-lane.

SERJEANT.

What is your profeſſion?

BODKIN.

I am a *teacher* of the *word*, and a *taylor*.

SCAMPER.

Zounds, Will, it is a methodiſt.

TIREHACK.

No, ſure!

SCAMPER.

By the lord Harry, it is.

CLERK.

Silence.

SERJEANT.

Do you know any thing of Fanny the phantom?

BODKIN.

BODKIN.

Yea—I do.

SERJEANT.

Can you give any account of her thumpings, ſcratchings, and flutterings?

BODKIN.

Yea—manifold have been the ſcratchings, and knockings that I have heard.

SERJEANT.

Name the times.

BODKIN.

I have attended the ſpirit *Fanny* from the firſt day of her flutterings, even to the laſt ſcratch that ſhe gave.

SERJEANT.

How long may that be?

BODKIN.

Five weeks did ſhe flutter, and ſix weeks did ſhe ſcratch.

SCAMPER.

Six weeks—Damn it, I wonder ſhe did not wear out her nails.

CLERK.

Silence.

SERJEANT.

I hope the court is convinced.

COUN-

COUNSELLOR.

Hold, Maſter Bodkin, you and I muſt have a little diſcourſe. A taylor, you ſay. Do you work at your buſineſs?

BODKIN.

No—

COUNSELLOR.

Look upon me, look upon the court—Then your preſent trade is your teaching?

BODKIN.

It is no trade.

COUNSELLOR.

What is it then, a calling?

BODKIN.

No, it is no calling—it is rather—as I may ſay—a *forcing*—a *compelling*—

COUNSELLOR.

By whom?

BODKIN.

By the ſpirit that is within me—

SCAMPER.

It is an evil ſpirit, I believe; and needs muſt when the devil drives, you know, Will.

TIREHACK.

Right, Harry—

COUN-

COUNSELLOR.

When did you firſt feel theſe ſpiritual motions?

BODKIN.

In the town of Norwich, where I was born; — One day as I was ſitting croſs-legged on my ſhop-board, new ſeating a cloth pair of breeches of Mr. alderman Crape's — I felt the ſpirit within me, moving upwards and downwards, and this way and that way, and tumbling and jumbling — at firſt I thought it was the cholic—

COUNSELLOR.

And how are you certain it was not?

BODKIN.

At laſt I heard a voice whiſpering within me, crying, Shadrach, Shadrach, Shadrach, caſt away the things that belong to thee, thy thimble and ſheers, and do the things that I bid thee.

COUNSELLOR.

And you did?

BODKIN.

Yea, verily.

COUNSELLOR.

I think I have heard a little of you, Maſter Bodkin; and ſo you quitted your buſineſs, your wife, and your children?

BODKIN.

BODKIN.

I did.

COUNSELLOR.

You did—But then you commun'd with other men's wives?

BODKIN.

Yea, and with widows, and with maidens.

COUNSELLOR.

How came that about, Shadrach?

BODKIN.

I was moved thereunto by the ſpirit.

COUNSELLOR.

I ſhould rather think by the fleſh—I have been told, friend Bodkin, that twelve became pregnant—

BODKIN.

Thou art deceived—They were barely but nine.

COUNSELLOR.

Why, this was an active ſpirit.

SERJEANT.

But to the point, Mr. Proſequi.

COUNSELLOR.

Well, then—you ſay you have heard thoſe ſcratchings and knockings?

BODKIN.

Yea—

COUNSELLOR.

But why did you think they came from a ſpirit?

BODKIN.

Becauſe the very ſame thumps, ſcratches, and knocks, I have felt on my breaſt-bone from the ſpirit within me—

COUNSELLOR.

And theſe noiſes you are ſure you heard on the firſt day of January?

BODKIN.

Certain—

SERJEANT.

But to what do all thoſe interrogatories tend?

COUNSELLOR.

To a moſt material purpoſe; your worſhip obſerves, that Bodkin is poſitive as to the noiſes made on the firſt day of January by Fanny the phantom: now if we can prove an *Alibi*, that is, that, on that very day, at that very time, the ſaid Fanny was ſcratching and fluttering any where elſe, we apprehend that we deſtroy the credit of this witneſs—Call Peter Paragraph.

CLERK.

Peter Paragraph, come into court.

COUN-

COUNSELLOR.

This gentleman is an eminent printer, and has collected, for the public information, every particular relative to this remarkable ſtory; but as he has the misfortune to have but one leg, your worſhip will indulge him in the uſe of a chair.

CLERK.

Peter Paragraph, come into court.

COUNSELLOR. [*Enter* Paragraph.]

Pray, Mr. Paragraph, where was you born?

PARAGRAPH.

Sir, I am a native of Ireland, and born and bred in the city of Dublin.

COUNSELLOR.

When did you arrive in the city of London?

PARAGRAPH.

About the laſt autumnal equinox; and now I recollect, my *Journal* makes mention of my departure for England, in the Beſsborough Packet, Friday, October the tenth, N. S. or New Stile.

COUNSELLOR.

Oh! Then the Journal is yours?

PARAGRAPH.

Pleaſe your worſhip, it is; and relating thereto I believe I can give you a pleaſant con-

ceit—Laſt week I went to viſit a *peer*, for I know *peers*, and *peers* know me. Quoth his lordſhip to me, Mr. Paragraph, with reſpect to your Journal, I would wiſh that your paper was whiter, or your ink blacker. Quoth I to the peer, by way of *reply*, I hope you will own there is enough for the money; his lordſhip was pleaſed to laugh. It was ſuch a pretty repartee, he, he, he, he—

JUSTICE.

Pray, Mr. Paragraph, what might be your buſineſs in England?

PARAGRAPH.

Hem—a little love affair, pleaſe your worſhip.

COUNSELLOR.

A wife, I ſuppoſe—

PARAGRAPH.

Something tending that way; even ſo long ago as January 1739-40, there paſt ſome amorous glances between us: ſhe is the daughter of old Vamp of the Turnſtile; but at that time I ſtifled my paſſion, Mrs. Paragraph being then in the land of the living.

COUNSELLOR.

She is now dead?

PARAGRAPH.

Three years and three quarters, pleaſe your worſhip: we were exceeding happy together; ſhe was, indeed, a little apt to be jealous.

COUN-

COUNSELLOR.

No wonder—

PARAGRAPH.

Yes: they can't help it, poor ſouls; but notwithſtanding, at her death, I gave her a prodigious good character in my Journal.

COUNSELLOR.

And how proceeds the preſent affair?

PARAGRAPH.

Juſt now, we are quite at a ſtand—

COUNSELLOR.

How ſo?

PARAGRAPH.

The old ſcoundrel her father has play'd me a ſlippery trick.

COUNSELLOR.

Indeed!

PARAGRAPH.

As he could give no money in hand, I agreed to take her *fortune* in *copies*; I was to have the Wits *Vade Mecum* entire; four hundred of News from the Inviſible World, in ſheets; all that remained of Glanvil upon Witches; Hill's Bees, Bardana, Brewing, and Balſam of Honey; and three eighths of Robinſon Cruſoe.

COUNSELLOR.

A pretty fortune!

PARAGRAPH.

Yes; they are things that ſtir in the trade; but you muſt know that we agreed to go halves in Fanny the Phantom. But whilſt I and two authors, whom I had hir'd to aſk queſtions, at nine ſhillings a night, were taking notes of the knockings at the houſe of Mr. Parſons himſelf, that old raſcal Vamp had privately printed off a thouſand eighteen-penny ſcratchings, purchaſed of two methodiſt preachers, at the public houſe over the way—

COUNSELLOR.

Now we come to the point—look upon this evidence; was he preſent at Mr. Parſons's knockings?

PARAGRAPH.

Never; this is one of the raſcally methodiſts—Harkee, fellow, how could you be ſuch a ſcoundrel to ſell for genuine your counterfeit ſcratchings to Vamp?

BODKIN.

My ſcratchings were the true ſcratchings—

PARAGRAPH.

Why, you lying ſon of a whore, did not I buy all my materials from the girl's father himſelf?

BODKIN.

BODKIN.

What the ſpirit commanded, that did I.

PARAGRAPH.

What ſpirit?

BODKIN.

The ſpirit within me—

PARAGRAPH.

If I could but get at you, I would ſoon try what ſort of a ſpirit it is—ſtop, you villain. [*Exit* BODKIN.] The rogue has made his eſcape—but I will dog him, to find out his haunts, and then return for a warrant—His ſcratchings! a ſcoundrel; I will have juſtice, or I'll turn his tabernacle into a pigſtye. [*Exit* PARAGRAPH.]

COUNSELLOR.

I hope, pleaſe your worſhip, we have ſufficiently eſtabliſhed our *Alibi*.

JUSTICE.

You are unqueſtionably entitled to a jury of ghoſts.

COUNSELLOR.

Mr. Serjeant, you will provide us a liſt?

SERJEANT.

Let us ſee—you have no objection to Sir George Villars; the evil genius of Brutus; the ghoſt of Banquo; Mrs. Veal.

COUNSELLOR.

We object to a woman—your worſhip—

JUSTICE.

Why, it is not the practice; this, it muſt be own'd, is an extraordinary caſe. But, however, if, on conviction, the phantom ſhould plead pregnancy, Mrs. Veal will be admitted on the jury of matrons.

SERJEANT.

I thank your worſhip: then the court is adjourned.

[Terence *and* Dermot *in an upper box.*

TERENCE.

By my ſhoul, but I will ſpake.

DERMOT.

Arrah, be quiet, Terence.

TERENCE.

Dibble burn me but I will; hut, hut, not ſpake, what ſhould ail me; harkee you, Mr. Juſtice—

SCAMPER.

Hollo, what's the matter now, Will?

DERMOT.

Leave off, honey Terence, now you are well—

TERENCE.

Dermot, be eaſy—

SCAM-

SCAMPER.

Hear him—

TIREHACK.

Hear him—

TERENCE.

Ay, hear him, hear him; why the matter is this, Mr. Juſtice, that little hopping fellow there, that Dublin Journal man is as great a liar as ever was born—

TIREHACK.

How ſo?

TERENCE.

Ay, prithee don't bodder me; what, d'ye learn no more manners at Oxford college, than to ſtop a gontleman in the midſt of his ſpeech before he begins? oh, for ſhame of yourſelf—Why the matter is this, Mr. Juſtice, that there what the debble d'ye call him, Pra-Praragraf, but, by my ſhoul, that is none of his name neither, I know the little baſtard as well as myſelf; as to Fanny the phantom, long life to the poor gontlewoman, he knows no more of her than the mother that bore her—

SUDS.

Indeed! good lord, you ſurprize me?

TERENCE.

TERENCE.

Arrah, now, honey Suds, ſpake when you are ſpoke to; you ar'nt upon the jury, my jewel, now; by my ſhoul you are a little too fat for a ghoſt.

TIREHACK.

Prithee, friend Ephraim, let him go on? let's hear a little what he would be at—

TERENCE.

I ſay, he knows nothing about the caſe that is litigated here, d'ye ſee, at all, at all; becaſe why, I hant ha been from Dublin above four weeks, or a month; and I ſaw him in his ſhop every day; ſo that how could he be here and there too? unleſs, indeed, he uſed to fly backwards and forwards, and that you ſee is impoſſible, becaſe why, he has got a wooden leg.

SCAMPER.

What the devil is the fellow about?

TIREHACK.

I ſmoak him — harkee, Terence, who do you take that lame man to be?

TERENCE.

Oh, my jewel, I know him well enough ſure by his parſon, for all he thought to conceal himſelf by changing his name—

SCAMPER.

SCAMPER.

Why, it is Foote, you fool.

TERENCE.

Arrah, who?

TIREHACK.

Foote.

TERENCE.

Fot, what the lecture-man? Pa—

TIREHACK.

Yes.

TERENCE.

Arrah, be eaſy, honey—

SCAMPER.

Nay, enquire of Suds.

SUDS.

Truly I am minded 'twas he.

TERENCE.

Your humble ſervant yourſelf, Mr. Suds; by my ſhoul, I'll wager you three thirteens to a rap, that it is no ſuch matter at all, at all.

SCAMPER.

Done—and be judg'd by the company.

TERENCE.

Done—I'll aſk the Orator himſelf—here he comes; [*Enter* Foote.] Harkee, honey Fot, was

was it yourſelf that was happing about here but now?

FOOTE.

I have heard your debate, and muſt give judgment againſt you—

TERENCE.

What, yourſelf, yourſelf!

FOOTE.

It was—

TERENCE.

Then, faith, I have loſt my thirteens—Arrah, but Fot, my jewel, why are you after playing ſuch pranks to bring an honeſt gentleman into company where he is nat——But what, is this ſelling of lectures a thriving profeſſion?

FOOTE.

I can't determine as yet; the public have been very indulgent; I have not long open'd.

TERENCE.

By my ſhoul, if it anſwers, will you be my pupil, and learn me the trade?

FOOTE.

Willingly—

TERENCE.

That's an honeſt fellow, long life to you, lad. [*Sits down.*

Enter

Enter M^c GEORGE.

M^c GEORGE.

Here is doctor Friſcano without.

FOOTE.

Friſcano—who is he?

M^c GEORGE.

The German phyſician from James-ſtreet.

FOOTE.

Well; what is his buſineſs with me?

M^c GEORGE.

He is in danger of loſing his trade.

FOOTE.

How ſo?

M^c GEORGE.

He ſays, laſt ſummer, things went on glibly enough, for then he had the market all to himſelf; but this year there is an Italian fellow ſtarted up in the garden, that with his face and grimace has taken all his patients away.

FOOTE.

That's hard.

M^c GEORGE.

Dreadful — if you was to hear the poor man's terrible tale you would really be moved to compaſſion: he ſays that his bleeding won't find

find him in bread; and as to the tooth trade, excepting two ſtumps, for ſix-pence a piece, 'tis a month ſince he looked in a mouth—

FOOTE.

How can I help him?

M‘ GEORGE.

Why, he thinks oratory will do all with the Engliſh; and if you would but teach him to talk, he ſhould ſoon get his cuſtom again—

FOOTE.

Can he read?

M‘ GEORGE.

Oh Lord! poor man, no.

FOOTE.

Well, let him attend here on—

M‘ GEORGE.

He hopes you will quickly diſpatch him, for if he finds he can't do as a doctor, he intends to return to the curing of horſes again.

FOOTE.

Well, tell him that he may reſt aſſured, he ſhall either bleed or ſhoe in a fortnight.

[*Exit* M‘ GEORGE.

FOOTE.

Having thus compleated our lecture on the eloquence peculiar to the bar, we ſhall produce one great group of orators, in which will be exhibited ſpecimens of every branch of the art.

art. You will have, at one view, the choleric, the placid, the voluble, the frigid, the frothy, the turgid, the calm, and the clamorous; and as a proof of our exquiſite ſkill, our ſubjects are not ſuch as a regular education has prepared for the reception of this ſublime ſcience, but a ſet of illiterate mechanics, whom you are to ſuppoſe aſſembled at the Robin-hood in the Butcher-row, in order to diſcuſs and adjuſt the various ſyſtems of Europe; but particularly to determine the ſeparate intereſt of their own mother country.

End of the SECOND ACT.

ACT

ACT III.

SCENE, *The Robin Hood.*

The PRESIDENT.

Dermot O'Droheda, *a Chairman*; Tim Twiſt, *a Taylor*; Strap, *a Shoemaker*; Anvil, *a Smith*; Sam Slaughter, *a Butcher*; Catchpole, *a Bailiff*. All with Pewter Pots before them.

PRESIDENT.

SILENCE, gentlemen; are your pots repleniſhed with porter?

ALL.

Full, Mr. Preſident.

PRESIDENT.

We will then proceed to the buſineſs of the day; and let me beg, gentlemen, that you will, in your debates, preſerve that decency and decorum that is due to the importance of your deliberations, and the dignity of this illuſtrious aſſembly—

[*Gets up, pulls off his hat, and reads the motion.* Motion made laſt Monday to be debated today, "That, for the future, inſtead of that "vulgar

" vulgar potation called porter, the honour-
" able members may be ſupplied with a pro-
" per quantity of Iriſh uſquebagh.

" Dermot O'Droheda † his mark."

O'DROHEDA. [*Gets up.*

That's I myſelf.

PRESIDENT.

Mr. O'Droheda.

O'DROHEDA.

Mr. Preſident, the caſe is this; it is not becaſe I am any grate lover of that ſame uſquebagh that I have ſet my mark to the motion; but becaſe I did not think it was decent for a number of gontlemen that were, d'ye ſee, met to ſettle the affairs of the nation, to be guzzling a pot of porter; to be ſure the liquor is a pretty ſort of a liquor enough when a man is hot with trotting between a couple of poles; but this is anothergueſs matter, becaſe why, the head is concerned; and if it was not for the malt and the haps, dibble burn me but I would as ſoon take a drink from the Thames as your porter. But as to uſquebagh; ah long life to the liquor—it is an exhilirator of the bowels, and a ſtomatic to the head; I ſay, Mr. Preſident, it invigorates, it ſtimulates, it—in ſhort it is the onlieſt liquor of life, and no man alive will die whilſt he drinks it.

[*Sits down.* Twiſt *gets up, having a piece of paper, containing the heads of what he ſays, in his hat.*

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Timothy Twiſt.

TIM TWIST.

Mr. Preſident, I ſecond Mr. O'Droheda's motion; and, ſir, give me leave—I ſay, Mr. Preſident—[*looks in his hat*] give me leave to obſerve, that, ſir, tho' it is impoſſible to add any force to what has been advanced by my honourable friend in the ſtraps; yet, ſir, [*looks into his hat again,*] it may, ſir, I ſay, be neceſſary to obviate ſome objections that may be made to the motion; and firſt, it may be thought — I ſay, ſir, ſome gentlemen may think, that this may prove pernicious to our manufacture—[*looks in his hat,*] and the duty doubtleſs it is of every member of this illuſtrious aſſembly to have a particular eye unto that; but Mr. Preſident—ſir—[*looks in his hat, is confuſed, and ſits down.*]

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Twiſt, O pray finiſh, Mr. Twiſt.

TWIST. [*Gets up.*

I ſay, Mr. Preſident, that, ſir, if, ſir, it be conſidered that—as—I ſay—[*looks in his hat,*] I have nothing farther to ſay. [*Sits down, and* Strap *gets up.*

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Strap.

STRAP.

Mr. Preſident, it was not my intention to trouble

trouble the aſſembly upon this occaſion, but when I hear inſinuations thrown out by gentlemen, where the intereſt of this country is ſo deeply concerned, I own I cannot ſit ſilent; and give me leave to ſay, ſir, there never came before this aſſembly a point of more importance than this; it ſtrikes, ſir, at the very root, ſir, of your conſtitution; for, ſir, what does this motion imply? it implies that porter, a wholeſome, domeſtic manufacture, is to be prohibited at once. And for what, ſir? for a foreign, pernicious commodity. I had, ſir, formerly the honour, in conjunction with my learned friend in the leather apron, to expel ſherbet from amongſt us, as I looked upon lemons as a fatal and foreign fruit; and can it be thought, ſir, that I will ſit ſilent to this? No, ſir, I will put my ſhoulders ſtrongly againſt it; I will oppoſe it *manibus totibus*. For ſhould this propoſal prevail, it will not end here: fatal, give me leave to ſay, will, I foreſee, be the iſſue; and I ſhan't be ſurprized, in a few days, to hear from the ſame quarter, a motion for the expulſion of gin, and a premium for the importation of whiſky.

[*A hum of approbation, with ſignificant nods and winks from the other members. He ſits down, and* Anvil *and another member get up together; ſome cry* Anvil, *others* Jacobs.

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Anvil.

ANVIL.

Mr. Preſident, ſir—

[*The members all blow their noſes, and cough;* Anvil *talks all the while, but is not heard.*

PRESIDENT.

Silence, gentlemen; pray, gentlemen. A worthy member is up.

ANVIL.

I ſay, Mr. Preſident, that if we conſider this caſe it its utmoſt extent—[*all the members cough, and blow their noſes again,*] I ſay, ſir, I will. Nay, I inſiſt on being heard. If any gentleman has any thing to ſay any where elſe, I'll hear him.

[*Members all laugh, and* Anvil *ſits down in a paſſion, and* Slaughter *gets up.*

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Samuel Slaughter.

SLAUGHTER.

Sir, I declare it, at the bare hearing of this here motion, I am all over in a ſweat; for my part I can't think what gentlemen mean by talking in that there manner; not but I likes that every man ſhould deliver his mind; I does mine; it has been ever my way; and when a member oppoſes me I like him the bet-

ter

ter for it; it's right; I am pleas'd; he can't pleaſe me more; it is as it ſhould be; and tho' I differ from the honourable gentleman in the flannel night-cap, over the way, yet I am pleaſed to hear him ſay what he thinks; for, ſir, as I ſaid, it is always my rule to ſay what I think, right or wrong—[*a loud laugh.*] Ay, ay, gentlemen may laugh, with all my heart, I am uſed to it, I don't mind it a farthing; but, ſir, with regard to that there motion, I entirely agree with my worthy friend with the pewter pot at his mouth. Now, ſir, I would fain aſk any gentleman this here queſtion; Can any thing in nature be more natural for an Engliſhman, than porter? I declare, Mr. Preſident, I think it the moſt wholeſomeſt liquor in the world. But if it muſt be a change, let us change it for rum, a wholeſome palatable liquor, a liquor that—in ſhort, Mr. Preſident, I don't know ſuch a liquor. Ay, gentlemen may ſtare; I ſay, and I ſay it upon my conſcience, I don't know ſuch a liquor. Beſides, I think there is in this here affair a point of law, which I ſhall leave to the conſideration of the learned, and for that there reaſon, I ſhall take up no more of your time.

[*He ſits down,* Catchpole *gets up.*

PRESIDENT.

Mr. Catchpole.

CATCHPOLE.

I get up to the point of law. And though, ſir, I am bred to the buſineſs, I can't ſay I am prepared for this queſtion. But though this uſquebaugh, as a dram, may not (by name) be ſubject to a duty, yet it is my opinion, or rather belief, it will be conſider'd, as in the caſe of horſes, to come under the article of dry'd goods—But I move that another day this point be debated.

SLAUGHTER.

I ſecond the motion.

[Catchpole *gives a paper to the Preſident, who reads it.*

PRESIDENT.

Hear your motion.

" That it be debated next Thurſday, whe-
" ther the dram uſquebaugh is ſubject to a
" particular duty; or, as the caſe of horſes, to
" be conſidered under the article of dry'd
" goods."

ALL.

Agreed, agreed.

FOOTE.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, having produced to you glaring proofs of our great ability in every ſpecies of oratory, having manifeſted, in the perſons of our pupils, our infinite addreſs in conveying our knowledge to others, we

we ſhall cloſe our morning's lecture, inſtituted for the public good, with a propoſal for the particular improvement of individuals. We are ready to give private inſtructions to any reverend gentleman in his probationary ſermon for a lectureſhip; to young barriſters who have cauſes to open, or motions to make; to all candidates for the ſock or buſkin; or to the new members of any of thoſe oratorical ſocieties with which this metropolis is at preſent ſo plentifully ſtock'd.

FINIS.

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